

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 00160 302114Z

62

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12

IO-11 ACDA-05 /081 W

----- 111748

R 301020Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7575

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, BC, SA

SUBJECT: LOCAL REACTION TO SOUTH AFRICAN BORDER CROSSING AUTHORITY

REF: A) GABORONE 0150, B) CAPE TOWN 0080

1. JANUARY 30 EDITION OF GOVERNMENT-PUBLISHED BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS CARRIES FRONT-PAGE STORY DATED CAPE TOWN REPORTING THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION "EMPOWERING THE ARMED FORCES (OF SOUTH AFRICA) TO CROSS THE COUNTRY'S BORDERS TO COUNTERACT ANY THREAT TO SECURITY." ARTICLE NOTES THAT UNDER EXISTING DEFENSE ACT, SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE TO SIGN PAPERS STATING THAT THEY ARE CROSSING A BORDER VOLUNTARILY. THIS WAS THE SITUATION AS APPLIED TO ANGOLA.

ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, IF THE BILL IS PASSED AT THE END OF NEXT MONTH, SERVICE IN DEFENSE OF SOUTH AFRICA WILL BE DEFINED TO INCLUDE "THE PREVENTION OR SUPPRESSION OF ANY ARMED CONFLICT
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PAGE 02 GABORO 00160 302114Z

OUTSIDE THE REPUBLIC WHICH, IN THE OPINION OF THE STATE PRESIDENT,

IS OR MAY BE A THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC." "SOUTH AFRICA" IS REPORTEDLY DEFINED AS "AFRICA SOUTH OF THE EQUATOR."

2. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF THE CONCERNS INDICATED BY PRESIDENT KHAMA PARA 3 REF A AT SOUTH AFRICAN INTENTIONS IN ENTERING ANGOLA, THIS NEW LEGISLATION MUST BE SEEN BY GOB LEADERS AS INCREASING POTENTIAL THREAT TO BOTSWANA.

BOLEN

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NNN

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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04 MAY 2006

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